

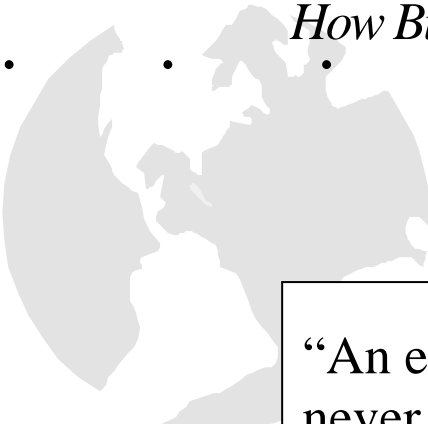
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FY 2006 Budget

Where did education go?

How Budget affects the lives of Texans.

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“An education is the one thing that can
never be taken from you.”

Solomon P. Ortiz

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Plain and simple: What these programs do. ---

TRIO– Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services

TRIO includes very important programs that serve 873,000 low-income students nationwide. Texas ranks second for number of projects and funding received. 102 projects will be cut because there will be no funding. That is a total of 26,368 students in the state of Texas, and 2,850 in the 27th District alone. Almost every district in Texas has students in these programs. These programs, individually and collectively, help students overcome class, social, and cultural barriers to higher education. Most schools try to offer opportunities of higher education to students but funding cuts for these programs take away that chance entirely.

Upward Bound prepares young people and adults for higher education. Participants receive instruction in literature, composition, mathematics, and science in college campuses after school, on Saturdays and during the summer.

Talent Search serves students in grades 6 thru 12. In addition to counseling, participants receive information about college admission requirements, scholarships and various student financial aid programs. This early intervention program helps people from low-income families, where neither parent has graduated from college, to better understand their educational opportunities and options.

Student Support Services helps low-income students to stay in college until they earn their baccalaureate degrees.

GEAR UP– Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

This program intervenes one step earlier than Talent Search. GEAR UP targets low-income elementary and secondary school students in their preparation for postsecondary education. In other words, this helps deter high school dropouts before the students even get to high school.

Vocational and Technical Education– Perkins programs, Tech-prep education, Perkins loans

These programs prepare youth and adults for the future by building their academic and technical skills and ensuring they are equipped to proceed with postsecondary education or pursue other avenues. Tech prep in particular is a major component of the Perkins Act. It creates seamless pathways for secondary students to make the transition into post-secondary education programs in the high-skill, high-wage technical fields for which there is an escalating labor market demand. These academically and technically prepared graduates are critical to the economic growth, productivity and internal competitiveness of the United States.

If you take away the definitions and statistics, you are left with the one absolute fact that these investments give students what may be their only chance at a higher education. If the chance is taken away, then there is no opportunity, and without that, there will be limited job possibility.

If you haven't heard of these programs, these Texans have.

Current students and alumni of these programs share how important they really are. Some have moved on to college, and others have that to look forward to.

“Without Upward Bound, my success might well be buried under beer bottles, locked away in jail houses, and would fester and degenerate to nothing. Thanks to Upward Bound, I can live instead of survive in a somewhat cruel world.”

Eduardo Muller, Student at RIT

“It is very hard to explain how one day you can care less about life, and the other you are planning how to get there. That is what Upward Bound has done for me.”

Gisell S. Zamora, 15 yrs old, Gladys Porter High School

“I can honestly day that without the motivation from programs such as Upward Bound, I probably would not have achieved so much in life.”

Emma Rocha, Texas A&M Kingsville

“TRIO programs are extremely good. Coming into the program knowing very little English I received a lot of support. Support included tutorials, workshops, and administrators that were good motivators. Because of the help things were not as difficult. I had encouragement throughout. I am not unique either, many people are in the same situation.”

Modesta Salinas, MBA program UT Brownsville

The following is a letter from a student at UTB-TSC. He exemplifies all the success in these programs and what will be lost when they are cut.

I have a need to learn, but you take that away from me. Now, I have to struggle more to succeed in my classes, and I don't have much time. I'm a 54-year-old student, trying to get an education. I am also a veteran and served my country in the Vietnam War. I was a Jet Engine Mechanic and lost part of my hearing.

My life may be half over, but I have just begun to learn what should have been taught to me a long time ago. I did not learn, for there was no one to help motivate me. I became one of the punks that you saw on the streets because no one helped me to learn. There wasn't anyone who cared for the underprivileged, and many people were lost. Some became drug addicts, others are in jail, and most are dead. There are still a few that cling to the hope of a better life, and their desire to learn. Do not shut the door to those that come after me. At least, give them a chance to become someone.

There are many injustices in America; not everyone is born equal. We all have the opportunity to grow, but not with the closing of TRIO programs. There are many veterans, as well as many underprivileged people, that still have a lot to live for. Do not put them out the streets.

Jose R. Rocha